

# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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**Senate Committee On Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care, and Privacy**  
**Testimony of Senator Lena C Taylor**  
**Senate Bill 257**  
**Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

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Honorable Chairman, and members of the committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee and offer testimony on Senate Bill 257, relating to an invasion of privacy. I am happy to bring this addition to state law before this committee, along with Senator Carol Roessler of the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

The State of Wisconsin and its citizens have long believed that everyone has a right to a reasonable expectation of privacy. It springs from the very foundational documents of our country, such as our Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

Here in our state, we have long been at the forefront of ensuring privacy protections; much of that led by Rep. Marlin Schneider. Last session, the Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Housing, included privacy concerns in its mission and focus. It was with such a deep background and past personal experience, that I was inclined to offer this bill with Senator Roessler.

Under a reasonable expectation of privacy, persons who live in a multi-unit apartment building should have that expectation of privacy apply to the common areas of the building. With this expectation, residents should not find a "peeping tom" being able to view their private residence from the common area of a building. While this is common sense to you and I, it is not codified in our state statutes.

There are personal stories that have inspired legislation like this. I cannot imagine what the feelings of a person are when their privacy is violated in such a fashion. I do know that Wisconsin has an opportunity in this bill to clearly state that it is wrong to violate that expectation of privacy. I encourage you to support this bill and look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Thank you.